United Nations A/AC.109/2004/SR.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 May 2004

Original: English

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 April 2004, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Aisi ..... (Papua New Guinea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Pacific Regional Seminar on Advancing the Decolonization Process in the Pacific Region (A/AC.109/2004/1)

2. **The Chairman** thanked the Government of Papua New Guinea for offering to host the Special Committee's Pacific Regional Seminar, to be held in Madang from 18 to 20 May 2004. The letters of invitation had been circulated in March 2004 to all members of the Committee in an aide-memoire. He took it that the Committee approved the arrangements and wished to commemorate the Week of Solidarity during the Seminar.

3. *It was so decided.*

Composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee

4. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to be represented at the Seminar by himself (for the host country), Congo and Mali (for the Group of African States), Papua New Guinea and the Syrian Arab Republic (for the Group of Asian States), Cuba and Venezuela (for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and the Russian Federation (for the Group of Eastern European States). The travel costs of representatives of those eight States would be met by the Organization.

5. *It was so decided.*

Extension of invitations to experts and organizations

6. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to give him authorization to finalize the list of experts and organizations to be invited to participate in the Seminar.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairman** said that invitations would also be extended to other Member States, administering Powers, United Nations specialized agencies and some regional organizations, as well as to all elected and appointed officials of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. As in the past, a delegation from the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia would be officially invited to participate along with representatives from the Government of New Caledonia. Their travel costs would not, however, be borne by the United Nations.

9. *It was so decided.*

Guidelines, rules of procedure and agenda of the Seminar

10. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to approve the guidelines, rules of procedure and provisional agenda of the Seminar contained in document A/AC.109/2004/1.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that four permanent representatives of Papua New Guinea had served as chairman of the Committee and made great contributions to the cause of decolonization. Each seminar provided fresh ideas and added new impetus to the work of the Committee. The success of that work, however, as the Committee was approaching the middle of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, depended on the good will of the Committee to cooperate with the administering Powers. In that regard, the Committee had demonstrated its seriousness and transparent approach in its consultations with the delegations concerned.

13. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that he fully endorsed the statement by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Committee should maintain the momentum of the work achieved at the Caribbean Regional Seminar in Anguilla in May 2003. Progress would depend not only on the efforts of members of the Committee, but other Member States, particularly the administering Powers. Their presence at the Seminar was crucial to its success. The administering Powers should follow the good example of the Government of New Zealand and work jointly with the Committee in a spirit of transparency and cooperation.

14. **Mr. Tanoh-Boutchoué** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, prior to the Seminar, the Committee should take stock of the progress it had made. For example, at the previous seminar, an administering Power (New Zealand) had participated in a Committee seminar for the first time. It would be good to know how best to increase participation of administering Powers in future seminars. Moreover, seminars should not be an exercise in merely reviewing issues; the Committee

should take into account the concerns raised by Non-Self-Governing Territories in the past, such as the issue of Gibraltar. Finally, he noted that the people of Samoa would like to be removed from the list of remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

15. **Mr. Ivor** (New Zealand) said that the delegation of Tokelau would be represented by Neil Walter, the Administrator, at the Seminar. In addition to making a formal statement on agenda item 2 (a), "The case of Tokelau: Perspective of the administering Power", Mr. Walter would be talking informally with Committee members about recent developments in Tokelau. Significant progress had been made with respect to the thinking of the people of Tokelau about their own future. The delegation would also be discussing increasing the capacity of Tokelau's public service sector so that the Territory would be ready to take on self-government. He also expressed the hope that his Government would no longer be an administering Power two years hence.

16. **The Chairman** said he was pleased that the Government of New Zealand would be sending the highest possible representative. He expressed the hope that Tokelau would gain its independence not after two years but one.

17. **Mr. Sinaga** (Indonesia), supported by **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran), **Mr. Rehren** (Chile) and **Mr. Severin** (Saint Lucia), said that energy and political will would be needed to fulfil the purposes of the Seminar. Every step, however small, was important, and it was crucial that each should be taken in the right direction. In addition to selected experts and relevant non-governmental organizations, there should be the widest possible participation of other interested parties in the Seminar, including the administering Powers, so that consensus might be reached. The expectations of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories must also be considered. The Committee must deepen the process of engagement with the administering Powers in order to fulfil its mandate. The collaborative relationship between the Committee and the Government of New Zealand was an example to be followed. Finally, the Committee must build on the results of previous seminars and incorporate lessons learned. They should not be seen as isolated events but rather as incremental steps towards a final resolution of the issues under consideration.

18. **The Chairman** said he agreed with Committee members on the need to build on past achievements and to view each seminar as part of an ongoing process. All interested parties should be encouraged to participate in the seminars to promote cooperation, generate new ideas, with frankness and openness, and forge a way forward.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.